

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

January 15, 1878.

Robert Hudson, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

The following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December 1877 was read by the Secretary:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December 1877 was 103, of which 17 were by birth, 28 by presentation, 24 by purchase, 21 by exchange, and 13 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 101.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. A Family of Gelada Baboons (*Cynocephalus gelada*), deposited by Mr. C. Hagenbeck, December 7th, consisting of an adult male, three young males, and four females of this singular and little-known Monkey. A single example of it was once before exhibited for a short time in the Society's Menagerie; but this is the first occasion on which we have had an opportunity of watching their curious habits and observing their grass-eating propensities.

2. A pair of Musk-deer (*Moschus moschiferus*), presented by Sir Richard Pollock, K.C.S.I., H.M.Z.S., Commissioner at Peshawur, N.W. P., and arrived December 15th. This is believed to be the first pair of Musk-deer that have reached Europe alive. They have been placed temporarily in one of the outer cages of the New Lion-house, and seem likely to do well.

The Secretary read the following letter from Mr. A. Anderson, F.Z.S., containing a correction of his last paper on the Raptorial Birds of the N.W. Provinces:—"I find that Mr. Hume is right in his conjecture¹ that the bird figured at pl. xxiii. P. Z. S. for 1876, as *Falco babylonicus*, is an abnormally coloured *F. barbarus*.

"Mr. Gurney, who has kindly (at my request) reexamined the bird, and compared it with specimens at the British Museum, has authorized my publishing the following memorandum which he has drawn up on the subject.

"Memorandum.

"At the request of Mr. Anderson I inspected the Falcon, figured in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1876, on pl. xxiii., as a specimen of *Falco babylonicus*, before that figure was drawn. The specimen struck me as smaller than any *F. babylonicus* I had previously seen, and as having rufous edgings to a larger proportion of the feathers of the mantle; but it certainly did not occur to me that it was any thing else than a small male of *F. babylonicus*, with the male of which species I was not, however, well acquainted, the specimens of that Falcon in the Norwich Museum being apparently, by their size, all females.

"At p. 140 of 'Stray Feathers' for 1877 this Falcon is referred to; and the Editor suggests that it is too small for *F. babylonicus*, and 'might perhaps be *F. barbarus*.'

"In consequence of this remark, I recently took the skin, at Mr. Anderson's request, to the British Museum for comparison, and found that it closely agrees with a Falcon from Nubia in that collection, both in size and in coloration; this Nubian Falcon has been identified by Mr. Sharpe with *F. barbarus*, and is specimen *a*. in the enumeration given at p. 387 of vol. i. of his British-Museum Catalogue.

"I believe that Mr. Sharpe's identification of this specimen is correct, and that both it and Mr. Anderson's Etawah Falcon are abnormally coloured specimens of *F. barbarus*.

"J. H. GURNEY.

"6th December, 1877.

"In expressing my regret that the mistake in question should have occurred, I may remark that I believe the present is the first recorded occurrence of an adult *F. barbarus* within the limits to which I have restricted my researches, whereas the capture of *F. babylonicus* has been of comparative frequency; the addition therefore of the former (*F. barbarus*) to my plains Catalogue is of greater importance than if it had been the latter (*F. babylonicus*)."

The following papers were read:—

¹ Cf. 'Str. Feath.' for 1877, p. 140.